

September 20, 2004

Fanon – (1925-1961)

- *Black Skins, White Masks* – book in which he is extremely self-critical, touching upon themes of internalized racism and the devaluation of the native
- The chapter “Colonial War and Mental Disorders” in *The Wretched of the Earth* – inspired by his experience in Algeria, deals with the complex view of violence and how violence begets violence and the resultant psychological damage

Marx – wrote *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848

- revolution is the means by which the masses (which form the economic base) can enter history through their struggle
- revolution drives change
- evolutionary model of progression of society
- biology is *not* hereditary (i.e. we are able to change our circumstances, the society, the world...)
- critique of capitalism – critical of the wage/labor system and how it results in the alienation of the laborer vs. the product [product value on market], mechanization of laborer
- dictatorship of the proletariat – theme of the control of resources, how labor is used, what/how exchanged, and how whoever has power has knowledge (superimposed on superstructure of society)

The Wretched of the Earth by Fanon

- violence is the way of colonization
- violence constituted a colony and therefore that which is needed to overturn it (internalized racism)
- decolonization as a process
- advocated for unity among colonized people everywhere

- Manichaeic world: compartments and stereotypes
 - representations of *the other* to justify violent treatment
 - reclamation as a catharsis of ideology

- myth/occult – obscure what’s really happening
 - irrational vs. real ghosts
 - dogged adherence to beliefs

- desire – colonists are envied by the natives (Fanon incorporated themes of the libido his background included training in Freudian psychoanalysis)

- reparations – those colonized must accept the world view of the powerful
 - but, equally so, the ‘third world’ view should be acknowledged too

- neutralism – recently decolonized nations would receive aid and have to function under the conditions of the sponsoring nations

- Who owns the truth?
 - the strategy of the colonized: deny the ‘truth’ of colonizers
 - what would justice mean? Would it come from below or from above?